

# the farmington enterprise & observer

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**CLEAN SAND** — The sandy beach of Stewart Lake at Graveland-Oaks attracts bathers with a lifeguard on duty during hours swimming is permitted.



**CAMPERS** — Some arrive in camp trailers, others in tents, in the spacious grounds at Graveland-Oaks.



**LAKE PRESERVED** — Crooked Lake with its clean, fresh water borders the primitive acres of Independence-Oaks. It will be preserved in its natural state with summer and winter sports provided for residents.

## Parks Need Votes



**REFLECTION** — Conference Center at Addison-Oaks is reflected in one of three lakes on the 700-acre site that also features a wildlife sanctuary.



**COUNTY ACQUIRES** — This picturesque, tree-shaded lane is typical of the wooded, hilly sites Oakland County has acquired for county parks.

Within a half-hour's drive of anyone living in Farmington are five Oakland County parks and 1,600 acres of mostly wooded, hilly land with lakes that are clean and unpolluted.

The county's Parks and Recreation Commission wants to buy additional sites for recreation uses while the land is still available.

AND THIS IT PLANS TO do if county voters approve renewal of 1/2 mill on Aug. 4. That's 25 cents per each \$1,000 of assessed valuation as equalized.

"With Oakland County's expanding population and the trend toward more leisure time we need more land than the 1,600 acres we own," said Kenneth VanNatta, parks and recreation director.

The problem is to buy it now before it is priced beyond reach or consumed by commercial interests.

"All around us we see prime recreational lands being lost to other development," VanNatta said. "It will all vanish for public use unless we act now."

The county got into parks and recreation on a full time basis in 1966 when voters approved spending 1/2 mill to acquire lands suitable for parks. Tuesday's ballot proposal seeks renewal of the millage for five years from 1972-76.

THE COUNTY'S COST for acquiring the 1,600 acres was \$1 million. Federal grants on a matching basis paid the other \$1 million.

"We can all take pride in what the land has actually cost residents," VanNatta declared.

"It figures out to about \$1.20 per resident and the average cost for each park is 24 cents."

"And we've been more than a little fussy over the kind of land we want," VanNatta added. "We look for choice locations that are easy to get to yet are spacious enough to

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